Development of ten Desolate Islands

1591. SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering a proposal to develop to desolate islands of Andaman and Nicobar group of islands as tourist spots; and

(b) if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) and (b) Development and promotion of places of tourist importance is the responsibility of the State Government/UT Administration concerned. However, Ministry of Tourism provides funds on the basis of project proposals prioritized in consultation with them. Project proposals submitted by the State Governments/UT Administrations that are complete in all respect, are appraised on the basis of inter-se priority and funds released, subject to availability under the respective heads.

UT Administration of Andaman & Nicobar has identified about 33 number of tourism sites for promotion under Integrated Coastal Zone management Plan. However, no project proposal for development of these sites has been submitted by the UT Administration of Andaman & Nicobar in 2005-06.

Foreign exchange earned from tourists

1592. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of tourist inflow to India in the year 2005;

(b) the details of such tourist inflow available with Government from different countries; and

(c) the foreign exchange earned for the period?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) An estimated 3.92 million foreign tourists arrived in India during the year 2005.

(b) As per the information provided by the Bureau of Immigration, foreign tourist arrivals from 10 major source markets available for first 11 months of 2005 is given below:—